

REMARKS

Claims 39-74 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 1-38 have been canceled. New claim 74 has been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant elects species I (Figures 3-8 of the first embodiment) and newly added claim 74 for continued examination. Claims 39-51 and 53-74 are readable on the elected species. Applicant's election is made with traverse.

Applicant notes that generic independent claim 74 has been added to species I. Applicant submits that independent claims 39, 48, 59 and 67 contain all the limitations of generic independent claim 74. Generic claim 74, as well as claims 39-51 and 53-73, all read on elected species I. As noted in the last Office Action, if a generic claim is ultimately allowed, Applicant is entitled to examination of all encompassed species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

Applicant also notes that MPEP § 803 provides that "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant submits that all claims 39-74 recite the same or similar limitations which define closely related subject matter that can be examined without serious burden.

Application No.: 10/655,219

Docket No.: M4065.0571/P571

Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Gabriela I. Coman

Registration No.: 50,515

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant